



Allie, First at Last

By Angela Cervantes

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Allie, First at Last By Angela Cervantes

Allie Velasco wants to be a trailblazer.
A trendsetter.
A winner.

No better feeling exists in the world than stepping to the top of a winner's podium and hoisting a trophy high in the air. At least, that's what Allie thinks . . . she's never actually won anything before. Everyone in her family is special in some way -- her younger sister is a rising TV star; her brother is a soccer prodigy; her great-grandfather is a Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

With a family like this, Allie knows she has to make her mark or risk being left behind. She's determined to add a shiny medal, blue ribbon, or beautiful trophy to her family's award shelf. When a prestigious school contest is announced, Allie has the perfect opportunity to take first -- at last. There's just one small snag . . . her biggest competition is also her ex-best friend, Sara. Can Allie take top prize and win back a friend -- or is she destined to lose it all?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—In this realistic middle grade novel, Cervantes introduces a Latina fifth grader, Alyssa, otherwise known as Allie, who is struggling to find her place and identity as the third of four siblings in a family full of successful, award-winning individuals. She considers herself a failure when compared to Harvard-bound Adriana; his soccer whiz older brother, Aiden; and his younger sister Ava, a TV commercial star. Yet this is only half of the family: Allie's mom is a news anchor, and her dad is a fireman. It seems that everyone has won trophies and completed "firsts"—even her great grandfather is famous as the only World War II recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor alive in the state. Fifth grade can be rough, filled with changing relationships and an intense self-centered focus. Allie tries, but often fails, to be understanding when a new friend's help on her science fair project is a disaster and former best friend Sarah chooses the same topic for the Kansas Trailblazer Contest. The first-person narrative captures the disquieting feelings that often accompany the preteen years, including the protagonist's insights on her language proficiency and efforts to make the right decisions. **VERDICT** This will appeal to middle grade girls, particularly for independent reading.—Ruth Quiroa, National Louis University, IL

Review

"A sweet middle-grade read that promotes compassion and empathy over competitiveness. (*Fiction. 8-12*)" -- *Kirkus Review, Starred (Dec. 2015)*

"Laced with Mexican-American language and culture, this realistic drama is filled with gentle humor, big lessons, and even bigger heart. Cervantes's (*Gaby, Lost and Found*) earnest story may inspire a few readers to reach for 'epic greatness' themselves, while reminding them that the 'real rewards you can't put on a shelf.' Ages 8-12." -- *Publisher's Weekly (Dec. 2016)*

Praise for *Gaby, Lost and Found*:

"A timely, touching and nuanced portrayal of real-life challenges experienced by children in mixed-status families."-- *Kirkus Reviews*

"An emotionally compelling story." – *School Library Journal*

"A tender debut that is heartbreaking and heartwarming." -- Diana Lopez, author of *Confetti Girl*

"A timely and important story about immigration, deportation, and abandonment wrapped in a warm-hearted tale that will appeal to all." -- Sonia Manzano, Emmy Award-winning actress who plays "Maria" on *Sesame Street* and Pura Belpre Honor Award-winning author of *The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano*.

About the Author

Angela Cervantes is an award-winning author whose debut book, *Gaby, Lost and Found*, was named Best Youth Chapter book by the International Latino Book Awards and a Bank Street College of Education's Best Books of 2014. Angela is a daughter of a retired middle-school teacher who instilled in her a love for reading. Angela's second middle grade novel, *Allie, First At Last*, was released by Scholastic in Spring 2016 and received a star review from Kirkus. Angela writes from her home in Kansas and is presently working on her third middle grade novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Smith:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students as they are still students or it for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has several personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book *Allie, First at Last*. All type of book are you able to see on many options. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

Fernande Hairston:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The particular *Allie, First at Last* is kind of book which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Charles Stubblefield:

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world likes. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new data. When you read a publication you will get new information mainly because book is one of several ways to share the information as well as their idea. Second, studying a book will make an individual more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially fictional works book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, you could share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this *Allie, First at Last*, you are able to tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a e-book.

Sebrina Knapp:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look

different you can read a book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book Allie, First at Last it is rather good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

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